

HAVE you ordered your copy of tomorrow's Sunday HERALD yet? If not—better do it this morning. You won't want to miss your copy of the Annette Kellermann Calendar.

THE WASHINGTON HERALD



NO. 3708.

WEATHER—FAIR.

WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1916.

ONE CENT

ALLIES TO GET GERMAN PEACE NOTE AT ONCE

Decision Reached at Most Protracted Cabinet Meeting of Administration.

U. S. TO MAKE NO PLEA

Entente Reply to Teutonic Suggestion Crucial Factor in Diplomatic Exchanges.

Germany's offer to discuss peace terms with her enemies will be forwarded to the entente allies immediately. It will not be accompanied by any communication which might reflect the attitude of the United States.

President Wilson has reserved for later consideration the question of sending within the next two or three days an urgent request that the peace offer be not treated lightly.

It is expected that the text of the note will have been received in London, Paris and Petrograd not later than Sunday morning.

Longest Cabinet Session. This statement was authorized at the White House at the close of the longest session of the Cabinet held during the present administration.

The conclusion reached by the President and Cabinet members should not be construed to mean that the United States is not ready to support and further, in every way possible, the peace movement. It was said. The plain adoption of the peace offer would be a diplomatic complication which would be disastrous to the purpose of all who are working for peace.

The representatives in Washington of neutral countries are said to be in entire accord with President Wilson.

Diplomatic Exchanges Desired. The notes will go and a reply is expected from the entente group, asking Germany: "What are your terms?"

In answer to this the German government is expected to say: "Come into the conference we have proposed and we will tell you our terms."

After this further exchange between the belligerent powers, it is declared, the United States could suggest with much better grace that at least a preliminary peace conference be organized.

This plan is known to represent the consensus of opinion which finally dominated the cabinet meeting yesterday. When members of the Cabinet had departed from the White House, reporters were permitted to learn authoritatively that the President is not without hope that great and lasting good will result from the note the government is transmitting to the allies.

Lansing Weary But Pleased. The time consumed by the Cabinet deliberations was not the only indication that there had been a wide difference of opinion. Secretary Lansing, of the State Department, was flushed and looked weary as he emerged, but his bearing was that of the victor.

Mr. Lansing is understood to have maintained the United States could not consistently do more at this time than act the part of messenger in forwarding the peace offer. Secretary Daniels, of the Navy Department, who is one of the most ardent pacifists in the administration, left the White House with bowed head.

There is nothing I could properly tell you," was the only statement Mr. Daniels could make.

Secretary of the Treasury McAdoo and Postmaster General Burleson left by a car door, as did the others with the exception of Attorney General Gregory, who remained behind to discuss another question with the President.

Turkish Message Last. When Secretary Lansing reached the State Department the announcement was made that the notes would go forward as soon as the communication from Turkey had been compared with the notes from Germany, Austria and Bulgaria.

Precaution. It was explained, is due solely to a desire to prevent unnecessary delay in getting an answer which can be promptly transmitted to the central powers.

State Department officials, as well as the President, are awaiting with much concern the speech which David Lloyd George, England's new prime minister and first lord of the Treasury, is expected to make Tuesday.

During the McKinley administration the United States undertook to sound Great Britain on mediation in the Boer war. The answer was a direct intimation that any interference would be construed as unneutral.

WILSON RAILROAD PLAN DENOUNCED AS SLAVERY

W. G. Lee Scores Proposed Law to Prevent Immediate Strikes.

(By the International News Service.) Evansville, Ind., Dec. 15.—"Slavery in the strictest sense," was the phrase W. G. Lee, president of the Railway Trainmen Brotherhood, used today in describing President Wilson's proposal for legislation similar to that in effect in Canada, to prevent railway men from going on immediate strikes.

Mr. Lee was speaking before the Central States conference on rail and water transportation.

"The right of the government to take over the railroads under stress of military necessity is one the employees will never question so long as it holds strictly to that proposition," he said. "But I do not believe that it is either right or just to hold an employee in service against his will."

SHOOT REAL ESTATE MAN.

Seattle, Wash., Dec. 15.—Alexander Miller, 47 years old, was shot and killed here late today by H. M. Stokes, 33, in the former's real estate offices. Stokes appeared at police headquarters later and gave himself up.

Union Savings Bank Christmas Savings Club for 1917 opens December 20.—Adv.

Day's Developments In Fight for Higher Pay

- 1—Chairman Fitzgerald, of the Appropriations Committee, seeks special rule to protect the 5 and 10 per cent increases in the legislative, executive and judicial bill.
- 2—Mass meeting in Convention Hall will take place of meetings previously arranged. Date to be fixed today.
- 3—Labor leaders confer with President Gompers and agree to push Nolan 33-a-day bill.
- 4—Rev. Randolph H. McKim joins clergymen who have endorsed Nolan bill.
- 5—Senators declare salary revision upward necessary.

RULE TO PROTECT PAY LEGISLATION

Chairman Fitzgerald Seeks to Assure Increases in Government Salaries.

Protection to the 5 and 10 per cent graded increases for government employees, fixed in the legislative, executive and judicial bill will be assured if the rules committee of the House brings in a special rule sought by Chairman Fitzgerald, of the Appropriations Committee, yesterday.

The rule will make the section of the bill which carries the increases in order, and will prevent it being stricken out at a point of order.

Advocates of the Nolan \$3 a day minimum wage bill and the amendment which the labor group in Congress will introduce for the Federal Employees Union propose to make an attempt to have the scope of the rule broadened so that their amendments for higher increases may be considered when the bill is reported to the House.

A conference was held last night in the executive rooms of the American Federation of Labor at which the situation was held by representatives from unions which are interested in the increases, in addition to members of Congress and officials of the American Federation of Labor.

Representative Nolan was at the conference. He made it plain that under no consideration would he compromise in his fight to have the \$3 a day minimum wage enacted. In informal discussion with influential leaders at the Capitol he was informed that should he consent to withdraw his amendment he would be considered a modified schedule of increases would be granted.

Will Fight for Bill. "I see no reason for not urging my bill with all the vigor and strength that is in me," he said last night. "I cannot compromise for any other measure. The hearings on the bill were the means of focusing attention on the low salaries paid by the government in a great many cases and they brought the situation to the public."

CONTINUED ON PAGE FIVE.

CAPITAL PRIEST HELPS IN FIGHT FOR LIBERTY

Father P. J. O'Callaghan Goes to Aid of Alleged Slayer.

(By the International News Service.) Chicago, Dec. 15.—Herman Billik, who nine years ago began a death march to the gallows, may be given a chance to regain his liberty by the State Board of Pardons today through the intercession of Father P. J. O'Callaghan of the Catholic University of Washington.

Billik was a fortune teller. Two of his wives died under suspicious circumstances. Five members of a family with which he lived also died in rapid succession. Billik was convicted of poisoning them, largely on the testimony of a man who swore he saw Billik putting white powders in their food. Now this man has confessed to Father O'Callaghan that he had lied. The priest, who obtained three reprieves and a commutation of sentence for Billik, came here to ask that the repentant witness be permitted to repeat under oath the story he told in the confession.

ADMITS DESERTING WIFE TO STUDY FOR MINISTRY

Philadelphia Man's Odd Views on Morality Aired in Court.

Special to The Washington Herald. Philadelphia, Dec. 15.—The remarkable excuse for deserting his wife and child, that he found it impossible to continue supporting his family and a commutation of sentence for Billik, came here to ask that the repentant witness be permitted to repeat under oath the story he told in the confession.

"Doesn't your conscience trouble you?" asked the judge.

"No, it doesn't," replied Berge.

"Well, such an example would not be well received by any congregation which you might have in the future," said the judge.

The court then made an order on Berge to pay \$3 a week for the maintenance of his wife and their 15-month-old child.

THREE MORE U-BOAT VICTIMS.

Three more ships, one a neutral, have been sunk by German submarines, it was stated in dispatches received here today. They were the Norwegian steamer Kau-pager, 2,354 tons; the British ship Glen-corn, 2,560 tons; and the Portuguese steamship Lecca, 1,311 tons.

Reduced Fares for Christmas Holidays to points South, December 20 to 25. Southern Ry. Consult Agents, 205 15th St. and 911 G St.—Adv.

CAN'T I HAVE SOME OF THE BREAD TOO?



ASKS NOURISHMENT.

DRY IN QUANDARY

May Vote Against Prohibition if Referendum Is Adopted.

Senator Morris Sheppard, of Texas, which, by the way, is a long, long way from Pennsylvania avenue, is having the busiest time of his public career keeping tab on the supporters of his bill for prohibition in the District of Columbia.

So numerous and so various are the offers of aid to the Texan in his reform crusade that, astute politician as he is, he is beginning to suspect some of the ardent champions of aridity of the sinister purpose of "slipping something over" on him.

Yesterday everything appeared to be smooth sailing for the Sheppard bill until the anchor was raised and the Senate got underway. Mr. Sheppard sought to remove obstructions to his measure by withdrawing his own amendment limiting the individual household's importation of distilled liquors into the District to one quart a month, and which would fix a statutory limitation on beer and wine consumption to one gallon.

Also, when Senator Kenyon suggested that the more liberal allowance of five gallons to embassies and legations was futile, as these favored spots are governed by extra-territorial custom, Mr. Sheppard amended his bill again.

Smoot on New Tack. "We cannot accomplish everything at once," said Senator Sheppard. "If we can close up the saloons we have accomplished a great deal."

But Senator Smoot, Republican, of Utah, was by no means agreeable to turning a perfectly good prohibition bill into an anti-saloon bill. He promptly introduced his amendment.

ART WORTH \$1,500,000 ARRIVES IN NEW YORK

Five Van Dyck Portraits Bought from Earl of Denbigh.

(By the International News Service.) New York, Dec. 15.—Five portraits by Van Dyck, valued at \$1,500,000, have just been brought to New York. They were purchased from the Earl of Denbigh by the National Gallery, which will exhibit them in his Fifth Avenue galleries next month.

The portraits, all fine examples of the Flemish master's art, have been in the family of the Earl of Denbigh and hanging in the great banquet hall at New-ham Palace, Leicestershire, since Van Dyck painted them. The Earl of Denbigh is the colonel commanding the Honorable Artillery Company, one of England's famous corps which has sent a large detachment to fight the Germans in France and an artillery company to Egypt.

Two of the portraits are of great historic value. They are of King Charles I. and his consort Queen Henrietta Maria. They were painted at the command of the monarch and presented by him to the Earl of Denbigh.

HOLLAND STILL FEARS WAR.

London, Dec. 15.—The menace of war still hangs over Holland, according to an announcement made in the lower house of the Dutch Parliament by Premier Cort van der Linden, says a Renter dispatch from The Hague today. The premier, while speaking on the budget, said that Holland's munitions supply is being increased daily in view of the dangers confronting the country.

MILK Famine Threatens.

Cleveland, Ohio, Dec. 15.—Six-sevenths of Cleveland's milk supply may be cut off Sunday because of differences between dairymen and Cleveland dealers. The dairymen are now getting 20 cents a gallon and ask 25. The dealers offer 22. Pending agreement the Northern Ohio Milk Producers' Association has ordered an embargo effective Sunday.

Hon. J. F. Rutherford, of New York, lectures at New National Theater, Sunday, Dec. 17, 3 p. m.—Adv.

Charges of Corruption Lodged Against "Wets"

(By International News Service.) Philadelphia, Dec. 15.—Accusations that the liquor interests have corrupted the government of Pennsylvania, have arrested the moral and mental development of the State and have blasted the careers of hundreds of young legislators in Harrisburg were made today by Frank N. Moore, of Bradford County, overseer of the Pennsylvania State Grange, which is holding its forty-fourth annual session in this city.

According to Mr. Moore, the liquor blight is still strongly entrenched in Harrisburg and he said that Pennsylvania would not receive good government until it was wiped out.

DUMA ON RECORD OPPOSING PEACE

"Proof of Enemy's Weakness" in "Hypocritical Act" Seen by Russian Parliament.

(By the International News Service.) London, Dec. 15.—The Russian Duma has gone on record as unanimously favoring a categorical refusal of the German peace offer "as nothing more than fresh proof of the weakness of the enemy and a hypocritical act."

A resolution was adopted by the Russian parliament to this effect. The attempt to bring about peace negotiations, the resolution says, is made by Germany to "throw upon others the responsibility for the war and for what happens during it, and to expiate itself before opinion in Germany."

Peace at this time would be premature, the Duma's resolution is quoted as asserting, and "would only involve the danger of another bloody war and a renewal of the deplorable sacrifices by the people."

A decisive victory by the allies alone can lead to lasting peace, the resolution concludes.

London, Dec. 15.—"Guarantees of the future are not enough without reparation for all Belgium, France, Serbia, and Poland have suffered."

Thus did Arthur Henderson, labor member of the British House of Commons, define Great Britain's attitude toward Germany's peace proposals, in a speech made tonight at a dinner of the Steel Smelters' Association.

"From the past and recent events," said Mr. Henderson, "we may anticipate without over-assumption that any proposal Germany may put forward will not rest on the side of magnanimity. They must be examined with the greatest possible care."

"The people of this country are prepared to accept peace today as in August, 1914, provided that peace is both just and permanent."

MERCURY TO TUMBLE TO ZERO BY TONIGHT

Cold Weather Coming and Lots of Snow, Says Forecaster.

Get out your skates and sleighs for Washington has entered into what is predicted to be an old-fashioned winter. A good start was made yesterday with a snow fall of more than two inches and the mercury dropping to 12 degrees last night.

This is the coldest weather this city has had this winter and it will be colder today, according to the Weather Bureau which would not be surprised to see the mercury hovering about zero tonight.

The weather is to continue clear today and tomorrow.

Winter sports are rarely enjoyed by Washingtonians but the next several weeks may see an exception. The present cold spell should continue for some time according to predictions which mean that there will be plenty of snow on the tidal basin. While there is no more snow in sight forecasters say that many feet of snow will fall before the winter is over.

One storm after the other is blowing up from the West and Northwest, which are experiencing severe winter weather. Last night the Weather Bureau issued a warning that there is a storm over the Carolinas moving northeast. This will mean a wintry blast for Washington.

1,000 PHONE EMPLOYEES GIVEN SALARY BONUSES

Announcement of Help Against H. C. of L. Made by Bell Company.

One thousand Washington employees of the Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone Company will receive a bonus equal to two or three weeks' salary before the first of the year. It was announced yesterday by Theodore N. Vall, president of the American Telephone and Telegraph Company, the parent company of the organization here.

Employees who have been in the service for more than one year and are receiving \$2,000 a year or less, will receive three weeks' additional pay, while those of the same class who have been in the service less than one year, but longer than three months, will receive two weeks' pay.

Employees who receive between \$2,000 and \$5,000 a year will also participate in the distribution, but not in the same proportion.

The company states that this is not intended as a distribution of profits, nor will all employees participate, but is designed to aid those workers whose margin between income and necessities is narrow.

It is estimated that \$500,000 will be distributed before the first of January by the Bell system.

FRANCE REPLIES TO PEACE OFFER WITH BIG GUNS

Most Successful Blow of War Struck at Teutons on Verdun Front.

7,500 PRISONERS TAKEN

Crown Prince's Line Ripped Open for Distance of More Than Six Miles.

(By the International News Service.) London, Dec. 15.—As if determined to give France's answer to Germany's offer of peace, the French Verdun army today struck one of the fiercest and most successful blows yet recorded against the forces of the German throne heir.

Seven thousand five hundred prisoners were taken and the Teuton lines on the right bank of the Meuse, north of Fort Douaumont and between the Meuse and the Woivre rivers, was ripped wide open. A gap six miles long and two miles deep was cut into the powerfully fortified positions of the crown prince.

Heralded by Drum Fire.

The sudden French onslaught, which, incidentally, comes upon the heels of the reorganization of the French high command had been heralded by a drum-fire of more than twenty-four hours. It had been foreshadowed in yesterday's and today's official accounts from Berlin.

A German war office bulletin issued late tonight made the significant admission that the French, since this morning, had launched strong attacks on the east bank of the Meuse and had "succeeded in obtaining advantages in the direction of Louvemont and Harcourt."

A furious battle evidently rages along the whole front east of the Meuse.

Heavy Guns Captured.

The French drive netted the attackers several heavy guns, which indicates that the Teutons had not expected there was any chance of success in a hostile advance, for otherwise the big artillery pieces undoubtedly would have been removed.

On the west bank of the river three strong French attacks against Hill 304 were repulsed, according to the Berlin war office statement issued this afternoon.

London, Dec. 15.—The British Mesopotamian army has recaptured the drive for Bagdad, with Kut-et-amara, scene of the bloody battles that resulted in the capture of that city by the Turks as their immediate goal.

Suddenly resuming the offensive the British Wednesday and yesterday attacked the Ottoman positions on the Hal River, crossed the right bank and penetrated their opponents' lines as far as one and one-half miles, ending up by capturing the Turkish trench around Kala-Jat Tahan, two and a half miles below Kut.

Buzen has fallen to the Germans. Four thousand additional prisoners have been taken. On a front of sixty-two miles, from Buzen to Cernowoda, the armies of Gen. von Falkenhayn and Field Marshal von Mackensen are sweeping irresistibly toward Moldavia. Another large Bulgarian force has crossed the Danube at Cernowoda. The Russo-Rumanian army in the Dobruja has evacuated its positions north of the Cernowoda-Constanza line and is being pursued northwards into the Danubian swamps below Bessarabia.

The Rumanian retreat north of the Jala-mita river and around Buzen is admitted by the Russian war office.

These are the outstanding features of the last thirty hours developments in the final phase of the Rumanian campaign, reported by yesterday's official accounts.

BACHELORS HOMELESS IN "DRY" VIRGINIA

Court Holds that Single Men Cannot Keep Whisky.

Alexandria, Va., Dec. 15.—Bachelors have no homes. Bachelors, therefore, cannot have liquor in their rooms, club or lodgerooms if they live in Virginia. This is the ruling of State Prohibition Commissioner J. Sidney Peters, of Virginia.

Commissioner Peters yesterday held that unmarried men not living with their parents cannot have shipped to them the quart of whisky a month allowed under the Virginia law. Another campaign in prohibition became effective November 1.

He takes the ground that the law does not recognize a boarding or rooming-house, club or lodgeroom as a "home" in which liquor may be kept for private consumption.

This is one of the most cruel blows ever promulgated against the man who hesitates to take unto himself a better half, and has already created a furor among the bachelors of the Old Dominion.

"Dry" census taker State entered the Virginia hundreds of bachelors in all parts of the State, many who have only rooms with their friends, laid in a supply to cover a prolonged drought. Now all calculations are upset.

SWISS ELECT PRESIDENT.

Berne, Dec. 15.—Edmund Schulthess has been elected president of the Swiss Federation for 1917, receiving 115 out of 118 votes in the national assembly. The new president is one of the youngest men ever to occupy the office, being but 46. He has been serving as head of the national public economic department.

DENMARK WILLING TO SELL.

Copenhagen, Dec. 15.—Denmark is willing to sell the Danish West Indies to the United States.

Complete returns today from yesterday's plebiscite showed 233,694 votes for the sale, as compared with 127,596 against it. The majority in favor of the transfer is 106,098.

Quickest Service to Baltimore. Every hour on the Hour, Baltimore and Ohio, \$1.75 round trip. Saturdays and Sundays, \$1.50.—Adv.